

March 25, 2009

Dear House Judiciary Committee Members,


On September 17, 1984 my beautiful eight year old sister, Vicki Lynne Hoskinson, was kidnapped, raped, brutally murdered and left in the desert for the animals to eat just a few miles from our home in Tucson, Arizona. Just a few days later, a convicted sex offender in violation of his parole was arrested for her disappearance. It took 6 ½ months for her remains to be found. A man looking for his lost dog stumbled upon her skull. Only a third of Vicki's remains were recovered. It has been 25 years of loving and missing her every day,

Frank Jarvis Atwood has been tried, convicted and sentenced to death by a jury of his peers. He has had 25 years of life, a college education and married while on death row in the state of Arizona. Vicki never had the joy of growing up, learning to drive, going to Prom, going to college, falling in love, getting married, and having children of her own. Frank Atwood is still using tax payer dollars to appeal his conviction, and still claims his innocence. Forensic Science has linked him directly to Vicki's murder. He had a history of sexual crimes against children before he took my sisters life. We cannot rehabilitate him.

We are still fighting for Vicki's rights in a Judicial System that favors the criminals more than the victims. Although I am not surprised, I urge you to be cautious when listening to these well intended people about taking away the death penalty in the state of Montana. The death penalty was re-enacted in the state of Montana in 1974, there are currently two people on death row in our state. With the help of forensic science, we are long past the days where people are wrongly put to death. And, short of letting Frank Atwood die the way he let my sister, I believe lethal injection is pretty humane.

I ask you to think about my beautiful sister. Think about the loss of her innocence, and try to imagine for one minute the horror my family, friends and a community has lived with for 25 years. Think about it before you vote to give up the Death Penalty as an option for punishment in our state.

Respectfully,



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